



"As we have been united in the profession of the faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession."

(Fr. Alberione)

At 9,30 a.m. yesterday, 13 April 2015, in the clinic "Pasteur" of Quito, our brother priest has returned to the house of the Father.

FR. JOSÉ VALENTÍN JUAN VELANDIA CASTELBLANCO
69 years, 55 of Pauline life, 48 of profession and 39 of priesthood

Fr. Valentín was born on 2 April 1946 in Nuevo Colón (Boyacá, Colombia). From his family he received the human and Christian values that he has kept for all his life. He entered the Congregation on 4 February 1960 in the community of Bogotá, where he began the courses for Baccalaureate. After finishing his novitiate, he made his first religious profession on 11 February 1967. Upon finishing his studies in philosophy and theology, he concluded his formation in Rome receiving the baccalaureate in theology at the Seraphicum (1973). On 8 September 1973, in Rome, he made his perpetual profession, while he was ordained a priest in his native town on 10 May 1975 by Mons. Augusto Trujillo Arango.

Fr. Valentín deeply lived the Pauline spirituality, its apostolic dimension and was greatly attached to the Primo Maestro. He lent his generous collaboration in the various sectors of the apostolate, specializing in the meantime in catechesis at the ITEPAL-CELAM. In 1979 he was the Region's bursar, until 1983, when he was named Regional Superior for two successive mandates (1983-1986; 1986-1989). From 1990 to 1991 he came to Rome for studies in spirituality. Upon returning to Colombia, in 1993 he assumed again the task of provincial bursar which he held until 2013.

In 1997 he was also nominated as Delegate for the Institute of the Holy Family and in 2006 Delegate for the Aggregated Institutes, for which he was reconfirmed in 2013. In December 2014, he accepted to be transferred to Quito (Ecuador) to collaborate with the activities of the community, thus returning to the place that he himself as Regional Superior had founded in 1988, opening then for the Region of Colombia the doors to go in mission to other nations. In the brief period he spent in Quito, the confreres and the religious communities nearby had manner to appreciate his testimony and dedication as a Pauline priest, leaving the mark of "joy in living the Gospel."

During the middle of March 2015, he had had to be hospitalized for cardiac problems, which he seemed to have overcome well at a first moment; but following a relapse and a new hospitalization, his clinical picture became worse, to end with his death due to heart failure. During the last period, besides his confreres, he was surrounded by the affection of his kin who have come to visit him.

On the occasion of his silver anniversary, Fr. Stanislao Cendron, who knew him up close, wrote: «Regarding Fr. Valentín we must emphasize his simplicity, his demeanor

worthy of the consecrated and priestly life; he knew how to say to the Lord the “yes” to the call the He himself has addressed to him... He is a committed person and he continues to be faithful to his duties and because of this he must be considered as a model which all should follow in our apostolic tasks. As a Pauline priest he is a person dedicated to all apostolic areas and has understood his work as a gift from God for the good of the Congregation and of all men. As an example for all of us who know him and esteem him, the young too are to imitate his enthusiasm, the juniors his fidelity and the elderly his perseverance and supernatural spirit».

We now entrust this our confrere to the Divine Master, so that after having lived “hidden with Christ in God,” he may now appear with Him in glory (cf Col 3,3-4) and exult in the heavenly liturgy together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We entrust to his intercession the needs of the Congregation and in particular those of the Province of Colombia - Ecuador - Panamá, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage, so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God.

Rome, 14 April 2015

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

**The Superiors of Circumscription are to inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages
(Const. 65 and 65.1).**